

An Abridged History of the “JTOC Appropriations”

1. From the “Transportation Committee Primer” by Neil Schickner, JFO:

“In FY-2001 \$44 million and in FY-2003 an all time high of \$46 million of TFund revenue was appropriated to agencies other than AOT. At the time these were known as the “JTOC appropriations”. Since FY-2003 the total has been gradually reduced to its current level and a number of years ago the appropriations to different agencies were consolidated into a single appropriation to the State Police. From a user fee perspective, the safety of the state’s transportation system relies on the State Police so there is certainly an argument that TFund user fees should support the State Police. Several years ago the legislature asked the Joint Fiscal Office to determine if the State Police budget could be parsed to identify those operating and capital costs which were attributable to transportation system safety. The answer was no because the time and activity data collected by the agency was insufficiently detailed to distinguish between the various functions performed by officers.”

2. In 2003, the departments receiving TF (per Act 142 of 2002) were:
Sec of Admin, Fin and Mgt, Personnel (DHR), Tax, BGS, Auditor, Treasurer, Labor Relations Board, Executive Office, Property tax assistance, Use tax reimbursement, Lt. Gov, Legislature, Leg Council, Sgt at Arms, JFC, AG, VT Court Diversion, States’ Attys, Sheriffs, Defender General, CJC, Public Safety, AAFM, Judiciary, Fire Service Training Council, SRS-Child Care Services, Division of Advocacy and Independent Living, Corrections, Education, Property Tax Assistance, ANR State Land Property Tax, FPR, DEC, and Transportation.
3. For the 2007 budget, I suggested to Finance Commissioner Jim Reardon that having all these departments doing journal entries to charge expenditures and payroll to transportation fund was wasteful, and hundreds of hours could be saved by consolidating all the “transportation funds for the support of general government” in a single appropriation. Commissioner Reardon selected State Police mainly because it was large enough to receive all the transportation fund in play. This was an action taken to clean up back-office accounting. It was only peripherally related to State Police having a nexus with Transportation.